

# The Tarzan RADIO Series

Radio started Nov. 15, 1926 and ended Sept. 30, 1962 and inbetween Tarzan was heard in two different series and with three actors playing the role. It started as an idea by Edgar Rice Burroughs in 1930 to read fifteen minutes from one of his current books over the air. His suggestion was to Maximilian Elser of Metropolitan Books which had just published TARZAN & THE LOST EMPIRE and although Elser was interested in the idea, nothing ever came of it. But the germ of an idea had been spread and before long several companies expressed interest in developing a Tarzan radio program. Towards the end of 1931 ERB signed a contract with Frederick C. Dahlquist of the American Radio Syndicate to broadcast a dramatization of TARZAN OF THE APES. Especially pleasing to Burroughs was the fact that his daughter Joan and her husband James Pierce had been chosen to play the roles of Jane and Tarzan.

The Tarzan radio program was one of the first syndicated programs and also the first "canned" program as opposed to a live broadcast. The first episode had a premier at the Fox Pantages Theatre in Hollywood on Sept. 10, 1932, when the record was played over the sound system. ERB and the entire radio cast appeared on stage at the presentation. On September 12, 1932 the program had its national broadcast premier, the program was fifteen minutes long including commercials and was broadcast three times a week.

The first episode opened a year after Tarzan's birth and according to the script Lord and Lady Greystoke had been marooned for two years. Alice is quite normal and not suffering from the delusion that she is back in England. and the fight with the ape that Alice shoots doesn't take place until after Tarzan's birth and when he is one year old. Both Claytons are killed by the apes in episode two, and Tarzan appears as a grown man in episode three, but by narration only. This is only the begining of a script that meanders away from the original, to return later and then meander away again. We are first introduced to the Porter expedition in episode three, aboard the Arrow. There has been no mutiny yet, nor do they have the treasure and Captain Tracy is in command of the ship. But before the next episode is over the crew have mutinied and the ship is under the control of Yonce, the first mate. In order to prevent the treasure map from falling into the hands of the mutineers, Jane puts it in a bottle and throws it overboard. Yonce makes Captain Tracy and two of his men go ashore to find the bottle and this makes Tracy the first white man that Tarzan encounters when he saves him from the two mutineers.

The script returns to the original source in episode ten when the Porter party go ashore and read Tarzan's note on the cabin door. It sticks fairly close to the book until episode twenty one when Tarzan rescues Jane from Terkoz after which the script keeps Tarzan and Jane together for an indefinite period as she teaches him to speak English. For some reason she starts to call him white-skin, but several episodes later she realizes he must be Tarzan of the Apes. (Professor Porter comes to the same conclusion through an interesting piece of deduction, exclaiming that that the white giant who has saved them on numerous occasions must be Tarzan of the Apes by reasoning that Tarzan must have learnt to read and write in English in much the same way that archeologists can translate hieroglyphics without knowing how to speak the language).

By the fall of 1933 ERB had become disenchanted with the program which by now was wandering aimlessly and he wrote to the producers wondering if he might take over the adaptation with episode 248, but nothing came of it and when the contract with American Radio Syndicate expired in March 1934 he refused to renew it. With son Hulbert and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. general manager Ralph Rothmund, ERB started his own radio production company.

It has recently been brought to light by Patrick Adkins\* that the plot for TARZAN'S QUEST was originally a synopsis for a 39 week radio program that was to be ERB's first production. That is was to be a starring vehicle for Joan Burroughs is obvious, but before production could begin, Joan dropped out, she was pregnant and Jim Pierce stated that he did not want to appear without his wife.

ERB found another actor to play Tarzan in Carlton KaDell, but it is interesting to speculate why he didn't find another actress to play Jane. In the Tarzan books, Jane had not been present for ten years, so did he do something with the radio programs that he wished he had done with the books - keep Tarzan single. No longer obligated to keep the role active for his daughter, he dropped Jane when he outlined TARZAN & THE DIAMOND OF ASHER which was scripted for radio by Rob Thompson. The previous series had ended with episode 286 and the conclusion of The Return of Tarzan, but with Tarzan and Jane not yet married. ASHER opens with the explanation that she has gone back to America to think over her relationship with the apeman.

TARZAN & THE DIAMOND OF ASHER in 39 episodes was a much better serial than it's predecessor, the plot was tighter and because it was an original radio play, it couldn't suffer by comparison with an original novel. Carlton KaDell made a fine Tarzan with a better voice and more acting experience than Jim Pierce. He was supported by an excellent cast with Jeanette Nolan as Magra and Cy Kendall as Atan Thome.

As most of you know ERB later rewrote the radio serial for the book TARZAN AND THE FORBIDDEN CITY, and there are quite a number of differences between the two. Tarzan is already in Loango when the radio serial opens and is introduced to Helen Gregory and her father by D'Arnot. The events that follow with Magra mistaking Tarzan for Brian Gregory and luring him to her room are practically the same, but after that they begin to differ.

In the book Helen is kidnapped by Atan Thome and taken by boat to Bonga. Tarzan, D'Arnot, Gregory and Magra together with their white hunter Wolff are flown by Lt. Lavac to try and head them off. However they are forced to land and make their way on foot.



AMERICAN  
RADIO FEATURES SYNDICATE  
LIMITED

Gold Seal  
Productions

HOLLYWOOD, CAL.

Signal Oil Company who are sponsoring the "Tarzan" serial in California made an announcement over the air during the last week of the first series which ended March 10th. In this announcement they advised the listeners that this was the completion of the first series and that they would welcome expressions from their listeners as to how they liked the act and whether or not the listeners wished the act to continue. More than 20,000 letters were received not only praising the act but asking the Signal Oil Company to continue with it,

We believe this is an unusually high return when it is considered that no premium was offered and only a simple announcement made.

An extraordinary high percentage of these letters stated that Signal Oil products were being used as a result of the program. Naturally, the Signal Oil Company is highly pleased with the program and the returns they have obtained from it.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN RADIO FEATURES SYNDICATE

By Frederick Dahlquist  
President



Above is a reproduction of a letter sent out by the American Features Syndicate written by Frederick Dahlquist, to sponsors, radio stations and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., in an attempt to allow them to continue producing the Tarzan radio serial. But as we have seen it was unsuccessful because Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., decided to cut out the middleman and produce their own radio series.

On the following four pages you will find reproduced a promotional brochure published by E.R.B. Inc. The cover was in color and utilized the St. John cover painting for "Tarzan & the City of Gold."

In the radio programs produced by American Features Syndicate and E. R. B. Inc., Tarzan's victory cry was the same as the one that was used in the movie THE NEW ADVENTURES OF TARZAN. A long drawn out cry of the word "mangani." The radio program also uses "kreegah" as the challenge cry of the bull ape, but in the movie the victory cry is played backwards to give Tarzan a different challenge cry. A different ape call was heard in the Fifties radio programs, one which was closer to the conventional Weissmuller ape call.

# TARZAN OF THE AIR



**A PROGRAM WITH A READYMADE AUDIENCE**

**PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY**

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, INC. TARZANA, CALIFORNIA**

**UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF**

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**

# FOR TWENTY YEARS TARZAN OF THE APES

has been building an eager audience, composed of the readers of the **TEN MILLION BURROUGHS BOOKS** that have been sold in English-speaking countries.

**60 BURROUGHS STORIES** have appeared in American magazines, and most of them have been syndicated in newspapers.

**116 DAILY NEWSPAPERS** are publishing the Tarzan strips **NOW**.

**93 SUNDAY PAPERS** are publishing the Tarzan full-color page **NOW**.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's Johnnie Weismuller **TARZAN THE APE MAN** was one of the six best box-office attractions of 1933. They have just released a new Tarzan picture, **TARZAN AND HIS MATE**, at a cost of over a million dollars; and they have bought and paid for a third Tarzan picture.

Sol Lesser's **TARZAN THE FEARLESS** is now showing throughout the country.

These are **SOME OF THE REASONS** why the Tarzan Radio Program has the largest ready-made audience ever gathered under thirty million roofs.

## *A UNIVERSAL APPEAL*

The Tarzan stories were written for adults. A questionnaire submitted to book publishers, motion picture producers, and nearly two hundred newspapers, indicates that today the adult appeal of Tarzan ranges from 60% to 80%.

Their appeal to children is unquestioned.

Mr. Burroughs' fan mail indicates that both sexes and all ages are included among the enthusiastic followers of the Lord of the Jungle.

The tremendous listener appeal of this program is, therefore, almost without parallel; for in nearly every home in the United States there is assuredly at least one Tarzan fan who will insist on tuning in the Tarzan program three times a week.

## *A NEW TARZAN PROGRAM*

In taking over the production and distribution of the Tarzan Radio Act, following completion of the first Tarzan sequence, we are adopting an entirely new policy.

We shall offer a series of Tarzan stories, each of thirteen weeks duration and each complete in itself. Each complete act will consist of thirty-nine transcription records to be broadcast three episodes per week for thirteen

weeks. Each change in story will naturally necessitate an almost complete change in characters for each thirteen week program, assuring renewed interest in cast as well as story.

## *A PROFITABLE PROGRAM*

The elimination of a middleman's profit and overhead allows us to furnish this program at a very reasonable figure, while permitting an increase in cost of production to insure the best act it is possible to offer.

Thus you may obtain a radio program with an assured listener interest at a low cost, a program that will attract the favorable attention of a vast audience.

The statistics appearing farther on in this circular are convincing proof of the advertising value of the Tarzan Radio Program.

The wise advertiser will take advantage of the fact that Tarzan is the best known and best loved fictional character in the world today, and tie in his merchandising campaign with a name that has spelled popularity and success for twenty years and with increasing potency as the years passed. Never has Tarzan been as widely publicized as he is today, and the immediate future appears to hold promise of even greater popularity.

Now is the time to cash in on the greatest advertising medium the world has ever known.

## YOUR PROTECTION

Back of this program, assuring you of consistent quality and dependable service, are the personal interest and supervision of the creator of Tarzan and the resources and reputation of a well established organization financially able to produce the highest type radio act.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. was established in 1923. Its stability and its reputation for integrity are your guarantee of satisfaction in all business relations with the organization.

## MERCHANDISING AID

We have an organization that is prepared to assist in working out merchandising campaigns for sponsors; and as owners of Tarzan copyrights and a wide range of Tarzan trademarks, we are in a position to offer sponsors exclusive privileges to the use of the Tarzan name in many lines.

There are now available several trademarked Tarzan articles that can be used as premiums, such as statuettes of Tarzan and many of the animals and characters appearing in the books, Tarzan sweat shirts, Tarzan swimming suits, Tarzan jigsaw puzzles, Tarzan jungle animals, Tarzan trick cards, Tarzan map and treasure hunt, Tarzan cut-out backgrounds, Tarzan masks, Tarzan paint books and, in the merchandising line, Tarzan bread wrappers, Tarzan ice cream containers, Tarzan candy wrappers, and Tarzan gum wrappers.

We also have in preparation an official instruction book for the formation of Tarzan Clans among boys and girls, which includes detailed instructions for forming the Clans, conducting meetings, rituals of initiation, instructions for making weapons, and rules for several Tarzan outdoor games and contests. This book could be used with the sponsors' imprint as a giveaway. Signal Oil Company's success with the Tarzan Clans was phenomenal—125,000 members in three States, and all potential Signal salesmen and boosters.

## RECORDING

The program will be recorded on standard size, lateral cut, sixteen-inch records at a speed of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  RPM; and will be recorded with the latest High Fidelity characteristics.

## THE DIRECTOR

We have been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Frederick Shields as director, as the following brief outline of his radio connections indicates.

Production Manager and Chief Announcer WDAF, Kansas City, Mo., 1928-1929. Station Manager, KTM, Los Angeles, 1930-1931. Production Manager, KFI, Los Angeles, 1931-1932. Chief Announcer, KNX, Hollywood, 1932-1933.

Prior to entrance into radio in 1928, director and producer of many legitimate plays. For several years Manager and Director of The Playmakers (Little Theatre) Kansas City and Columbia, Mo.

Radio productions which he has produced or directed include: The Pioneers, WDAF, 1929—Rackety Hollow, WDAF, 1930. Hamlet in Hollywood, KTM, 1931. The Radio Playmakers (legitimate drama series) KFI, 1932. Mrs. Leslie Carter's radio version of "Camille." (An electrical transcription recorded for radio, 1933). Decimal Seven (An electrical transcription now in preparation)

Special announcer for several transcontinental NBC productions originating in Hollywood, including Hollywood on the Air, The Chase and Sanborn Hour with Jimmy Durante, and The Fleischmann Sunshine Hour with Rudy Vallee.

## TARZAN, SUPER-SALESMAN

Here are some of the sponsors for whom the Tarzan Radio Act has brought remarkable results:

Signal Oil & Gas Co., *Gasoline & Oil By-products*, KPO San Francisco, Calif.; KFWB Los Angeles, Calif.; KFXM San Bernardino, Calif.; KERN Bakersfield, Calif.; KMJ Fresno, Calif.; KDB Santa Barbara, Calif.; KGB San Diego, Calif.; KXO El Centro, Calif.; KIEM Eureka, Calif.; KJR Seattle, Wn.; KIT Yakima, Wn.; KVIS Bellingham, Wn.; KORE Eugene, Oregon; KOIN Portland, Oregon.

Reed Tobacco Co., *Domino Cigarettes*, W'VA Richmond, Va.

Collin County Mill & Elevator Co., *Flour & Cereals*, W'FAA Dallas, Texas.

American Maid Flour, *Flour & Cereals*, KXYZ Houston, Texas.

Royal Baking Co., KSL Salt Lake City, Utah.

Zinsmaster Baking Co., WCCO Minneapolis, Minn.

Cortland Baking Co., W'FBL Syracuse, N. Y.

W'SMB New Orleans, La.

Andresen-Ryan Coffee Co., W'ERC Duluth, Minn.

Grainger Bros., *Don Carlos Coffee*, KFOR Lincoln, Neb.  
 Southern Dairies, *W'SOC Charlotte*, N. C.  
 The Pepsodent Co., 2 G-B Sydney, Australia;  
 3 K-Z Melbourne, Australia.  
 Northwest Broadcasting System, Inc., KEX  
 Portland, Oregon; KJR Seattle, Wn.; KGA  
 Spokane, Wn.  
 Foulds Milling Co., WBBM Chicago, Ill.;  
 CKOK Detroit, Mich.; WSPD Toledo, Ohio;  
 WCAE Pittsburgh, Pa.; WKRC Cincinnati,  
 Ohio; WFBM Indianapolis, Ind.; WCAH Co-  
 lumbus, Ohio; WOR New York, N. Y.  
 Russell C. Comer Advertising Co., KFAB Lin-  
 coln, Neb.; KFH Wichita, Kan.; KOMA Okla-  
 homa City, Okla.

Midland Broadcasting Co., KMBC Kansas  
 City, Mo.  
 H. J. Heinz Co., *Rice Flakes*, WSPD Toledo,  
 Ohio; WJAR Providence, R. I.; WSB Atlanta,  
 Ga.; W'NAC Boston, Mass.; WTAM Cleveland,  
 Ohio; WHO Des Moines, Iowa; WTIC Hartford,  
 Conn.; WHAS Louisville, Ky.; WSM Nashville,  
 Tenn.; WCAU Philadelphia, Pa.; KMOX  
 St. Louis, Mo.; WJSV Washington, D. C.;  
 WOR New York, N. Y.; WGN Chicago, Ill.;  
 CKLW Detroit, Mich.; KDKA Pittsburgh, Pa.;  
 WBEN Buffalo, N. Y.; WCCO Minneapolis,  
 Minn.; WLW Cincinnati, Ohio; KMBC Kansas  
 City, Mo.  
 Merchants Biscuit Co., KLZ Denver, Colo.  
 Adlerika Co., KSTP St. Paul, Minn.  
 Freihofer Baking Co., WKBF Indianapolis, Ind.

### THE FOULDS CAMPAIGN

Nine stations up to March 22, 1933, pulled 310,748 requests for Tarzan premiums, or a total of 932,244 labels, each representing a package of Foulds Macaroni, Spaghetti, Egg Noodles, or a key from a can of Toddy.

Radio Station WBBM from September, 1932, to March, 1933, alone pulled more than 75,000 requests.

On WBEN Buffalo, the program broadcast for Toddy, Inc. (subsidiary of Grocery Store Products, Inc.) pulled 32,500 requests from April 1st to May 1st, each containing proof of purchase of a can of Toddy (sells at 45½¢ retail for 1 lb. tin).

### THE SIGNAL OIL CAMPAIGN

Three weeks after Signal Oil started announcements concerning the Tarzan Club they had applications from more than 12,000 boys in the State of California alone who wished to become members of the "Tarzan" club. To become eligible for membership, applicants had to obtain a new customer for the Signal Oil Company.

On December 15, 1933, this Tarzan Club had grown to 125,000 members; and every member a potential salesman for the Signal Oil Company.

Signal Oil Company made an announcement over the air during the last week of the first series which ended March 10th, 1933. In this announcement they advised the listeners that this was the completion of the first series and they would welcome expressions from their listeners as to how they liked the act and whether or not the listeners wished the act to continue. More than 20,000 letters were received not only praising the act but asking the Signal Oil Company to continue with it.

*For further information, address*

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, INC.

TARZANA CALIFORNIA

Telegraphic address (Western Union only)  
 North Los Angeles, California



# TARZAN OF THE APES

## RADIO SERIAL NO. 1

### THE CAST

Lord Greystoke . . . . . Fred Harrington  
Lady Greystoke . . . . . Eily Malyan  
Tarzan . . . . . James H. Pierce  
Jane Porter . . . . . Joan Burroughs  
Prof. Porter . . . . . Lawrence E. Sterner  
Mr. Philander . . . . . Wilfred North  
Cecil Clayton . . . . . Gale Gordon  
Lt. Paul D'Arnot . . . . . Ralph Scott  
Captain Tracy . . . . . Cy Kendall  
Francois . . . . . Art Kane  
Tarrant . . . . . Horace Harley  
Snipes . . . . . Fred Harrington  
King . . . . . Ralph Robinson  
Carlos . . . . . A. M. Ghio  
Lt. Charpentier . . . . . Jacques Jou Jerville  
Bill Fraser . . . . . Fred Shields  
Joe Miller . . . . . Art Kane  
Capt. Gault . . . . . Ed. T. Meyers  
Captain of French  
Gunboat "Calais" . . . . . Art Kane

Mr. Trainee . . . . . Dave Taylor  
Vallons . . . . . Allan Garcia  
Robert Canler . . . . . Victor E. Lambert  
Capt. Dufranne . . . . . A. S. Kane, Jr.  
Nikolas Rokoff . . . . . Frank Nelson  
Alexis Paulvitch . . . . . Art Kane  
Cab in Steward, Serge . . . . . Jean Jostyn  
Count Raoul de Coude . . . . . Hanley Stafford  
Olga de Coude . . . . . Winnie Fields Moore  
Hazel Strong . . . . . Peggy Dolan  
Lord Tennington . . . . . Hanley Stafford  
Maya, Arab dancing girl . . . . . Ann Sawyer  
Lt. Gernois . . . . . Art Kane  
Busuli, the Waziri . . . . . Fred Shields  
La of Opar . . . . . Jeanette Nolan  
Mac, Chief Engineer of  
Tennington's yacht . . . . . Dave Taylor  
Karanoff . . . . . Hanley Stafford  
British Commissioner . . . . . Dave Taylor  
Shiek Joseph . . . . . Ted Osborne

Directed by James KnightCarden

## TARZAN AND THE DIAMOND OF ASHER

### RADIO SERIAL NO. 2

### THE CAST

Tarzan . . . . . Carlton KaDe11  
D'Arnot . . . . . Ralph Scott  
Helen . . . . . Karena Shields  
Gregory . . . . . George Turner  
Magra . . . . . Jeanette Nolan

Atan Thome . . . . . Cy Kendall  
Lal Taask . . . . . Don Wilson  
Wolf . . . . . Victor Rodman  
Larson . . . . . Victor Potel  
Mitchell . . . . . Fred Harrington  
Announcer . . . . . John McIntire

Directed by Fred Shields

## TARZAN AND THE FIRES OF TOHR

### RADIO SERIAL NO. 3

### THE CAST

Tarzan . . . . . Carlton Kadell  
Wong Tai . . . . . Cy Kendall  
Ahtea . . . . . Barbara Luddy  
D'Arnot . . . . . Ralph Scott  
Ashleigh . . . . . Vernon Steele  
O'Rourke . . . . . Jack Lewis  
Janette . . . . . Dale Nash

Ukah . . . . . Dan Davies  
Kailuk . . . . . Ted Meyers  
Shahn . . . . . John Prince  
Temur . . . . . Fred MacKaye  
Smith and Poltar . . . . . Thomas Freebairn  
Burton . . . . . Victor Rodman  
Announcer . . . . . John McIntire

Directed by Fred Shields

Gale Gordon played O'Rourke and Victor Rodman played Ashleigh in the first three episodes, but were replaced by Jack Lewis and Vernon Steele for the remainder of the serial. The director, Fred Shields did some of the narration, along with John McIntire. Sound engineers for series 2 and 3 were Jack Brundage and E. Dummel.

### TARZAN OF THE APES

Episodes 1 - 70 copyrighted 1932  
Episodes 71 - 247, 176 " 1933  
Episodes 248 - 286 " 1934

TARZAN AND THE DIAMOND OF ASHER  
Episodes 1-39 copyrighted 1934

TARZAN AND THE FIRES OF TOHR  
Episodes 1-39 copyrighted 1936

It was fifteen years after FIRES OF TOHR when the cry of the bull ape echoed once more over the airways in Commodore's production of TARZAN, LORD OF THE JUNGLE which debuted in 1951. Edgar Rice Burroughs had died the year before and had he been alive to hear these broadcasts he may have been a little dismayed at yet another variation of his character, but would have appreciated the production values and the amount of story that could be packed into a half-hour program.

Once again Tarzan is presented as being single and although his origins are often mentioned correctly, the portrayal of the apeman is a trifle too civilized. In an early episode the announcer relates, "Long ago Tarzan had learnt to hate the Tarmangani, the dreaded white man who came with their thunder sticks to cheat and rob and kill. Nor, had he any love for the Gomangani, the Black Man, but his need for human companionship was beginning to make itself felt and for many months had remained with the Punyas."

The beginning of the quotation sounds like the Tarzan of ERB, but the scripter Bud Lesser must have had second thoughts about it because he gives Tarzan a native tribe to lord it over. But why he didn't make them the Waziri is strange, because he uses the name Waziri to mean the fighting men of any tribe, not just the Punyas. Another oddity is the fact that all the native tribes speak "ape," they all use ape words for the names of animals etc.

In one episode Tarzan describes himself as a "Robin Hood of the Jungle", but this description doesn't really agree with the character of the apeman as described by Bud Lesser. At times he is more like a peace corp worker, or a transposed Lord of the Manor to Lord of the Jungle. Like the tenants of an English estate would turn to the Lord of the Manor for help, the natives would turn to the Lord of the Jungle for help. "Lord of the Jungle" supposedly being an honorary title given to Tarzan by the various native tribes.

D'Arnot does not appear in this series, but Tarzan is given a friend in Captain Stanley Lawrence of the Governmental Police (of an unnamed British West African colony). Another regular on the series is Torgo, a small Punya boy, although thankfully his appearances are kept to a minimum. Although Tarzan is often referred to as John Clayton or Lord Greystoke, there is no mention of his East African estates, he lives in his sea coast cabin and he is to all intents and purposes penniless.

Tarzan as Burroughs depicted him was usually a loner, but the radio scripts often give Tarzan a companion, usually a native, the main reason for this was to have someone to talk to because radio was mainly made up of dialogue. Another oddity of this type of storytelling, which tried to keep narration down to a minimum, was to have Tarzan describing some of the action as it happens which sounds somewhat strange.

The scripts were supposedly all written by Bud Lesser (except for two that were credited to other writers), but there are a number of contradictions that makes one wonder if they were all written by one person. Three or four of them use events from Burroughs' novels, and three of them use events and dialogue from Tarzan films. Of all the Tarzan films that could have been used, they used events from TARZAN'S REVENGE twice. Certainly not the most popular of the Tarzan films, I doubt if it had been seen in theatres since its initial release in 1938, so the writer must have had a good memory of it, or maybe he had obtained the script, or a Big Little Book.

The name of the actor who played Tarzan was anonymous, in fact there was no credit given to any of the actors in the programs, but it was later revealed the role of Tarzan was played by Lamont Johnson. He was quite good in the role, although he sounded more Americanized than Carlton Keadell, and at times he acted too emotional. The supporting actors, whoever they were, were excellent and on the whole the series is entertaining and well worth listening to. It doesn't quite capture the real Tarzan, but it's a near miss and except for a couple of instances there is nothing demeaning to the character.

The series, like its predecessor was canned and was first made available to radio stations through syndication and in the West was heard over the Don Lee Mutual Broadcasting System. In 1952 CBS picked up the program and it debuted on that network on March 22, it was heard on Saturdays at 8.30pm. It ran until June 27, 1953 and enjoyed healthy ratings, despite the state of the industry by then. On the following pages you will find the air dates for the CBS series, plus a brief synopsis of each story, although I can't guarantee the spelling of some of the names.

Lamont Johnson tried his hand at movie acting after the series and appeared in supporting roles in several movies in the late fifties. In the Sixties he switched to directing and became an Emmy winning director of made for TV movies, and a respected and talented director of theatrical films.

When the Tarzan series ended, television was getting into full swing and as a postscript to this article, the contract with Commodore was responsible for keeping the apeman off the TV screen for several years, for which we can probably be thankful. Under the radio contract agreement, Walter White Jr and Commodore Productions were to be offered first refusal when Tarzan was offered to television, but in 1955 Sol Lesser began preparing a TV series. White filed a breach of contract suit against Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. A proposal was submitted to White which he claimed wasn't made in good faith, because it was designed to elicit a refusal. The proposal demanded that Commodore employ Gordon Scott for \$1,500 per episode for a minimum of thirty-nine episodes, that Sol Lesser be paid \$500,000 to keep his Tarzan features off TV for a year and a half, and that 20% of the TV profits go to Lesser. There was no way that a small company like Commodore could meet those demands and White refused threatening another suit. Litigation followed until Sol Lesser paid White off. Sol Lesser produced two pilot TV films in 1958, one an hour in length and the other a half hour. Both starred Gordon Scott, with Eve Brent as Jane and Rickie Sorenson as their adopted son. This new Tarzan family was specially created for a TV series, but had previously been introduced in the feature film TARZAN'S FIGHT FOR LIFE. However the TV venture was unsuccessful, but whether it was because the pilots didn't sell, or because of litigation is uncertain, but disillusioned Sol Lesser sold his rights to Tarzan to Sy Weintraub and Harvey Hayutin. The two Gordon Scott pilot films were edited together into a feature entitled TARZAN & THE TRAPPERS and debuted on television May 5, 1966, and ironically the same year Sy Weintraub sold NBC a Tarzan TV series without even making a pilot film.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS go way back to 1964 when Hulbert Burroughs sent me a cast list of TARZAN OF THE APES long before I anticipated doing an article on the radio programs. Thanks also go to Danton Burroughs and Chris Olsen who compiled cast list of all three serials and to Pat Adkins who passed them on to me. Danton also supplied the photographs reproduced in this issue and last but not least, Bob Barrett who supplied the E.R.B. Inc. promo booklet.

Opposite: Wilfred North as PHILANDER & Lawrence E. Sterner as PROFESSOR PORTER

dpo



# TARZAN, LORD OF THE JUNGLE

CBS RADIO

## THE SIREN OF OMDUR MARA

March 22, 1952

Jalnar, the siren of Omdur Mara will only give herself to the suitor who brings her the sacred emerald of the Karniki. Ibn el Suman travels to Karniki and steals the gem which brings Tarzan to Omdur Mara as he searches for the thief and the self-centred Jalnar learns to care for someone other than herself.

## TARZAN AND THE MONUEMA

March 29, 1952

Tarzan attempts to rescue his small friend Torgo from being sacrificed to a volcano god by the cannibalistic Monuema tribe.

## BLACK GOLD OF AFRICA

April 5, 1952

A pair of unscrupulous prospectors Alexis Barron and Herbert Graves persuade Tarzan into giving them permission to mine for gold on Punya land. They don't find gold, but instead find oil and whenever Tarzan is absent they mistreat and cheat the natives.

## BLACK IVORY

April 12, 1952

Tarzan becomes involved with slave traders and a beautiful native girl to whom he becomes accidentally betrothed.

## TARZAN AND THE COWARD

April 19, 1952

Self-made millionaire William Pembler, disappointed in his gentle, literary minded son Billy, takes him on a big game hunting safari to make a man of him. Accompanying father and son, the villainous cousin Harry in debt to a bookie. He learns that he is to inherit the Pembler estate, so he plans to arrange a hunting accident for the two Pembrers.

## THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

April 26, 1952

Based loosely on incidents in the first half of TARZAN THE MAGNIFICENT. Tarzan encounters the Kahali, a race of Amazon women but in this version they are descended from Spanish settlers.

## TARZAN AND THE KILLER

May 3, 1952

Herbert Graves seeking revenge on Tarzan enlists the aid of a huge prize-fighter. Dressing the fighter up like Tarzan, Graves has him commit many robberies and murder. Tarzan is arrested for the crimes, but escapes and clears himself.

## JUNGLE LEGACY

May 10, 1952

This time it is Alexis Barron who tries to get even with Tarzan when he joins forces with an agent of a foreign power to search for uranium in the country of the Mowa. But once again Tarzan foils his prospecting plans.

## JUNGLE ORCHID

May 17, 1952

Tarzan encounters the beautiful Edwina Clarke and he is smitten with the almond eyed, silver haired woman who seems as gentle and fragile as the orchids she is collecting. But he soon discovers her evil disposition.

## GOLD COAST ROBBERY

May 24, 1952

Tarzan comes to the aid of a native friend who has been accused of robbing a gold shipment from a train.

## LIFE OR DEATH

May 31, 1952

Tarzan leads the safari of an American multi-millionaire, his daughter and son-in-law in a quest for the fountain of youth. The family are soon at one another's throats when they think they have discovered the secret and the riches the knowledge will bring.

**FOR DIAMONDS AND DEATH**

June 7, 1952

Tarzan goes to the diamond fields to persuade the son of a native chief to return to his homeland. He ends up working in the minefield in order to help the native return a stolen diamond.

**PIRATES OF CAPE BANDERO**

June 14, 1952

While taking a vacation sailing down the coast in a small skiff, Tarzan joins a band of pirates in order to thwart their plans.

**LAKE OF BLOOD**

June 21, 1952

Searching for his small friend Torgo, Tarzan discovers the forbidden Lake of Blood and a dishonest trader who is taking advantage of the native's superstitions to keep them away from the area.

**JUNGLE HEAT**

June 28, 1952

British solicitor Hugh Hutchinson travels to Africa to try and persuade Tarzan to return to England and take his rightful place in the House of Lords. Louise Wells and her daughter travel on the same boat. She is trying to find a rich suitor for her daughter, but she loves Bob Hale who follows them. Carol Wells is abducted by Ben Zeyd Bey, a character and event lifted from the film TARZAN'S REVENGE.

**JUNGLE HI-JACKERS**

July 5, 1952

Tarzan comes to the aid of his friend Captain Lawrence of the Governmental Police, to try and find out who has been hi-jacking shipments of army goods.

**TARZAN AND THE STRANGER**

July 12, 1952

Tarzan saves the life of Clement Kenner a disillusioned doctor who stays in the jungle to fight an epidemic of bubonic plague.

**ARAB VENGEANCE**

July 19, 1952

Tarzan intervenes and escapes with a young Arab girl when her father tries to sell her into marriage to a powerful Shiek. Tarzan foils the Shiek and returns the girl to her mother.

**TARZAN IN CAPTIVITY**

July 26, 1952

An Arab wazir with a pack of panther's under his control, forces Tarzan to visit his master the Caliph of Karadan. The Caliph requests that Tarzan become the tutor of his young son. Tarzan agrees when he sees that the boy is liable to grow up to be a dictator with no regard for human life. The wazir doesn't like the result of Tarzan's teaching and tries to kill him, but the Caliph and his son help him escape.

**GOLD OF THE SUDAN**

August 2, 1952

Tarzan accompanies Captain Lawrence to Khartoum and encounters an old enemy who is searching for a shipment of gold that was lost during WW II.

**STOLEN JEWELS**

August 9, 1952

Tarzan is given an invitation to a birthday celebration for the Pasha of Omdur Mara, in what is the most ludicrous scene of the series. Told to arrive in fine raiment, he arrives dressed in eagle feathers. When jewels are stolen Tarzan is suspected and he has to prove his innocence.

**DRUM WITHOUT A HEART**

August 16, 1952

Torgo accompanying a party of mountain climbers is captured by a savage tribe who follow a barbaric custom in making a drum. A child is made to crawl inside a hollow log to scrape it out and while he inside, hides are fastened on both ends so he cannot get out. The child is left inside to die - giving the drum its heart.

**DANGER OF SAN LORENCO**

August 23, 1952

Tarzan helps Della Carter, a young American girl search for her grandfather. They discover that he was aboard a ship that sank off the coast of San Lorenzo, and attempt to retrieve her inheritance by diving to the wreck.

## TERROR AT NIGHT

August 30, 1952

Tarzan discovers two men lost in the jungle. An Englishman Pete, and Harry an American. They are mariners who have jumped ship and fled into the jungle. They tell Tarzan a weird story of spending a night in a cave and of alien creatures who stole their food and left pearls in return. Tarzan and the two return to the caves to investigate the subterranean dwellers.

## HEAD HUNTERS OF YAMBESI

September 6, 1952

Magazine photographer Red Hale set's out to prove that Africa is no longer a savage and untamed land. Tarzan goes along as guide to show him the error of his ways and to make sure that he survives the ordeal.

## TROPHY ROOM

September 13, 1952

Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game," must surely be one of the most plagiarized stories, or the most borrowed theme in the history of all the media. The theme of the hunter who tires of hunting animals and sets his sight on the most dangerous game - MAN. Here Tarzan encounters such a hunter and ends up the quarry. (The same theme is also used later in the TV series).

## DEATH HAS SMALL WINGS

September 20, 1952

is a native term for the tsetse fly. Tarzan escorts a scientists and his spoiled daughter into a tsetse fly infected region. He is bitten by a fly and while unconscious hallucinates that he is in a Shangri La-like paradise. He soon tires of the idyllic life and asks to be returned to his own country. The high Lama gives him a potion to drink and also gives him another potion in a vial to drink if he ever wishes to return. Tarzan drinks the first potion and awakes to find he has been out for five days and realizes that it has been a dream. But, clutched in his hand is a vial of amber liquid.

## TARZAN'S MAGIC AMULET

September 27, 1952

In order to give a young ruler confidence in himself, so he can save his tribe from rising flood waters and other dangers. Tarzan gives him an amulet saying it is the source of his great strength and bravery.

## THE STRANGE BOOK OF ARABY

October 4, 1952

Saving a girl from slave raiders, Tarzan discovers that his old friend the Caliph of Karadan has been disposed by his grand wazir Ben Ayoub. Travelling to Karadan Tarzan meets the oracle of that country and is shown the Strange Book of Araby which is supposed to contain the secret of his future.

## CATHEDRAL IN THE CONGO

October 11, 1952

Tarzan accompanies two missionaries into the jungle, unaware that one of them is an imposter who has murdered the real missionary. He has taken his place in order to steal the money that is going to be used to build a "Cathedral in the Congo."

## CITY OF SLEEP

October 18, 1952

Tarzan discovers a dazed Captain Lawrence wandering in the jungle. He saves him from some wart hogs and finds he has been drugged. When Lawrence has recovered, Tarzan learns that he had been investigating drug traffic in El Hadi, the city of sleep. He had been over-powered, drugged and left to die in the jungle. Tarzan and Lawrence return to El Hadi to find out who is behind the narcotic traffic in this part of Africa.

## JUNGLE ODDS

October 25, 1952

Runyonesque tale of compulsive gambler Jerry Mulqueen and his daughter. Jerry welshing on a bet flees to Africa to escape the wrath of his bookie.

## SMALL PACKAGES

November 1, 1952

To try and get his grandson interested in business, an English Lord sets up a trading account at a financial institution, but young Anthony who longs for a life of adventure uses half the money to buy passage to Africa on a tramp steamer and disappears into the jungle. His grandfather guessing where he has gone travels to Africa and offers a reward of £1000 for knowledge of his whereabouts. A villainous Arab trader attempts to kidnap the lad and hold him for a bigger ransom.

ADVENTURE ON THE  
ROAD TO TIMBUCTU

November 8, 1952

Tarzan is mysteriously summoned to the city of Tarak where he meets Keith Roberts. Roberts persuades him to accompany him to Timbuctu. En route they are captured and taken to the Temple of the Golden Zebra and the supreme ruler Kayir. Kayir is responsible for Tarzan's presence. He considers himself to be the Lord of the Jungle and intends to get rid of the upstart who is using his title.

STRANGE ISLAND

November 15, 1952

Tarzan encounters new dangers on an island that is newly risen from the bottom of the ocean.

AFRICAN THANKSGIVING

November 22, 1952

Tarzan saves the life of Renee, a young French girl, but she flees from him and is recaptured by an Arab potentate. Tarzan follows her and attempts to get her to leave the Arab, but the Arab has slandered Tarzan and convinced the girl that a fate worse than death would befall her if she left with Tarzan. Tarzan later meets up with an American who is in love with Renee and together they set out to rescue her.

HUNTER'S FURY

November 29, 1952

Tarzan tries to halt the plundering of jungle animals by Herbert Briggs an unscrupulous murderer turned hunter. Briggs forces a zoologist Douglas Hanley to go along with him, because Hanley owes him money. Nkima appears in this adventure for the first time.

CONGO MURDER

December 6, 1952

Tarzan befriends young Johnny Convy, an American prospecting for gold. Convy makes a strike and leaves for Omdur Mara with samples to be essayed. Tarzan follows at a later date and discovers that his friend has been murdered, so he sets out to find out who committed the crime.

BLACK GOLD OF AFRICA

December 13, 1952

Repeat of April 5th episode

CONGO CHRISTMAS

December 20, 1952

In the isolated village of the Karniki people is a mission school, a fine church and the temple of Neomopo the Moon God. Tarzan comes to the aid of the Reverend Collier and his struggles against the heathen practises of the High Priest of the Moon God.

THE SIREN OF OMDUR MARA

December 27, 1952

Repeat of March 22nd episode

THE HAND OF DEATH

January 3, 1953

Ludicrous story of a couple living in Johannesburg whose only son has infantile paralysis. The father sends for Tarzan who travels to Johannesburg like it is only fifty miles away. The father asks Tarzan to take his son into the jungle, convinced that the outdoor life will cure him. Tarzan takes him all the way back to his sea coast cabin and eventually cures him.

THE MAN FROM ANOTHER WORLD

January 10, 1953

Tarzan saves the life of Johanna van Kruger and escorts her back to her father's rubber plantation. His purpose is twofold, to make sure she is safe and to check out rumors of van Kruger's cruelty to his workers. While he is there, the plantation is visited by a strange being who claims to have come from the planet Uranus.

QUICKSANDS OF WADIHARI

January 17, 1952

A member of a European royal family travels to Africa incognito and makes a safari into the interior with a villainous white hunter called Jungle Harry. A diplomat asks Tarzan to keep an eye on the girl, so under the name of John

Clayton he applies for a job on the safari as a second guide. Jungle Harry hires him, figuring him for a scapegoat if something happens to the girl. Once again we meet the potentate from TARZAN'S REVENGE (under a different name) who abducts the girl for his harem.

#### TRAIL OF DEATH

January 24, 1953

Story contrary to Tarzan's nature and origins. Tarzan tells Captain Lawrence that he is fed up with being a Robin Hood of the Jungle and disallusioned with the people he tries to help, and he wants to get as far away from civilization as possible. He decides to return to the Mutea Escarpment where he was raised by the great apes (sic.) George Anthony Fellows wants to find the Mutea and the elephants graveyard, so he gets his nephew Malcolm to start a fight with Tarzan and fake it to make it appear that Malcom is killed by Tarzan. He persuades Tarzan to flee from the law so that he can accompany him to the Mutea.

#### KILLER AT LARGE

January 31, 1953

Judge Cartright one of Africa's most beloved citizens is murdered. Captain Lawrence asks Tarzan's help. A convict escaped from jail ten days ago, but for some reason the warden is covering up the fact. So Tarzan goes undercover in prison to find out the name of the escaped prisoner and if he had any reason to murder the judge. He discovers the name and sets out to track the man down, but is in for a surprise when he locates his quarry.

#### PARADISE ISLAND

February 7, 1953

A chartered plane carrying a man, wife and small son crash lands on Paradise Island off the West Coast of Africa. Tarzan sees the plane go down and with a native friend canoes out to the island. He finds the family safe and the pilot suffering from a minor injury. While the pilot recovers he encourages the family to enjoy Paradise Island which is uninhabited and free of wild animals. They are happy until greed and avarice rear their ugly heads when Tarzan gives the boy a piece of quartz and pretends its a real diamond.

#### THE DEMON OF RONGUE

February 14, 1953

While trying to settle a dispute between the Punyas and the Rongue, Tarzan learns that a "demon" has been terrorizing the Rongues, stealing food and animals. Tarzan tracks the demon down and discovers it to be a wild white boy. He takes him back to his sea coast cabin to educate him and raise him as his son. Fortunately relatives of the boy arrive to claim him.

#### HOODED DEATH

February 21, 1953

Tarzan accompanies an American research scientist to the village of the snake people. The scientist is experimenting with snake venom as a cure for certain illnesses, but he gets more than he bargained for with people who worship the King Cobra.

#### SIMBA HODARI

February 28, 1953

Tarzan encounters Professor Reynolds an archeologist whose bearers have deserted him and stolen a valuable notebook. He helps him locate the homeland of his bearers, a tribe who punish thievery and lesser crimes with death, but let murderers go free. The tribesmen are also lion worshippers and Tarzan lands in trouble when he attempts to save a native from a man-eating lion.

#### OMEN OF THE EMERALD

March 7, 1953

Based on the first half of TARZAN THE MAGNIFICENT, a digest version of the story and one of the best programs in the series.

#### VOLCANO OF THE SUN

March 14, 1953

The Lotoko offer sacrifices of animal skins to the god of the volcano. A native chosen to offer the sacrifice is found dead with a gaping hole in his side. His dying words are "Get Tarzan." The Lotoko believe this to mean Tarzan is responsible for his death and they set out to hunt the Lord of the Jungle.

#### JUNGLE ORCHID

March 21, 1953

Repeat of May 17th episode



## END OF THE WORLD

March 28, 1953

Tarzan saves the life of the Rev. Thadeous Martin from a rogue elephant and joins him on a visit to the Nagalias, who are being robbed by a magician who has them believing that the world is going to end. While performing a trick he renders Tarzan temporary blind and chains him up. The same rogue elephant charges the compound and breaks Tarzan free, who then kills the elephant with a knife!

## THE ARENA OF DEATH

April 4, 1953

Another excellent adaptation, although of only a section of a Burroughs' novel. This time the arena fights from TARZAN & THE CITY OF GOLD. Script by Robert Schaeffer and Eric Freewall.

## JUNGLE SMOKE

April 11, 1953

Harry Douglas and his partner Eli plan to fly stolen diamonds out of Africa, but Harry sabotages Eli's parachute, fakes engine trouble and makes Eli jump to his death. The plan backfires when Harry can't pull the plane out of its dive and he has to bail out. Tarzan sees the chute open and goes to his aid. They are captured by the Wambos who plan to sacrifice them to their god because the burning plane set fire to their crops and animals. One of the better of the series written by David Chandler.

## EVIDENCE DESTROYED

April 18, 1953

A native named Omu notifies Tarzan that there is a slave ship anchored off the coast near his sea coast cabin. They canoe out to the brigantine and Tarzan pretends he is an Englishman who has been prospecting for gold and wishes to buy his passage back to England. The captain refuses but the mate takes him on board and Tarzan tries to solve the mystery of a Captain who appears not to know that his ship is being used as a slaver.

## NEW DEATH (a.k.a. RAYS OF DEATH)

May 2, 1953

British scientist Albert Forbes Martin assisted by Captain Lawrence tests secret weapons in the heart of the jungle. Tarzan is informed that he is working for an unfriendly power and is asked to locate him, but it is an agent of a foreign government who has asked Tarzan's help.

## THE LIPAGOR

May 9, 1953

Scientist Sabina Meadows helps Tarzan and a native tribe get rid of destructive white ants. In return Tarzan must supply her with animals for research, little realizing that she is trying to create a Lipagor - a cross between a lion, panther and gorilla, or that he will have to fight the monster.

## THE HOT ROD KID

May 16, 1953

Jerry Cromwell teenage son of a rich American, gets in with the wrong crowd and is taken on a trip to Africa with his father in order to stay out of prison. He jumps ship and is rescued by Tarzan when an electric eel attacks him. He accompanies Tarzan to an oil field that is being attacked by arabs and while Tarzan helps ward off the attack, Jerry drives an old caterpillar truck through the jungle and across the desert for help.

## MASK OF MONOTIKI

May 23, 1953

Tarzan and Nkima come across a photographer wandering in the jungle. They later join a party of art collector's on their way to Monotiki to trade for native masks. While they are in the village a mask of solid gold is stolen and Nkima unmasks the culprit with the aid of the photographer's camera.

## NONE SO BLIND

May 30, 1953

A famous pianist on a tour of the Dark Continent, loses the use of his hands in a train accident. He also loses his will to live, but his faith is restored when he encounters a blind native who is an outstanding example of someone overcoming a handicap.

## MISSING ELEMENT

Apr. 25, 1953

## NIGHT RIDERS OF TOMKIA

June 6, 1953

Tarzan plays detective again when he sets out to find out who is the mysterious leader of the night riders who are plundering settlements.

## THE AMERICAN FAMILY ROBINSON

June 13, 1953

Comic drama of George Robinson and his wife, who leave America to get away from the 9 - 5 grind. Daughter Marion who has fought with her boy friend and son Billy who wants to play Tarzan and fight cannibals. The Lord of the Jungle keeps an eye on them to see that they come to no harm, scares away animals and fills their needs without them realizing he is doing it.

## THE LONG JOURNEY

June 20, 1953

At the request of Capt. Lawrence Tarzan is present in Leago for the arrival of Mr. Inglesby, the new provincial governor. As the governor's car approaches a hand grenade is thrown at it, but Inglesby manages to leap clear. Tarzan catches a glimpse of a man with yellow eyes and tries to pursue him, but loses him in the crowd. Later shots are fired at the governor and again Tarzan sees yellow eyes. But Inglesby is convinced that Lawrence fired the shots and has him arrested and shipped back to England for trial. Tarzan undertakes the long journey to England to act as a witness for his friend and encounters danger on the journey and when he arrives in England.

## TWO IN THE BUSH

June 27, 1953

Tarzan tracking a sick buffalo comes across Neils Mortenson, a reclusive veterinarian, who has set up an animal shelter in the middle of the jungle. Into this drama come a couple of bird smugglers and tracking them a health official from America. Add to this a giant roc and the result is an interesting final episode of the series.

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## SYNDICATED PROGRAMS NOT BROADCAST ON CBS

### TARZAN AND THE DECOY

Into Tarzan's life comes Baron a wild animal agent, his daughter Zyra and Hammet a white hunter. They are after two quarries, elephants which they intend to round up using female elephants as decoys, and Tarzan. Zyra is the bait to ensnare the Lord of the Jungle and he falls for the beautiful girl, referring to her as his White Goddess, until he realizes that beauty is only skin deep and narrowly escapes being caged.

### ACROSS A CONTINENT

Tarzan again falls for a beautiful woman. This time Gabrielle a singer in a cafe. He helps her escape from two men and she tells him that she worked for the underground in Warsaw during WWII and that the men chasing her are Nazi war criminals. Tarzan escorts her across the continent from Bechurata to Angolia, but in the end he finds out he has been duped and that she is really a diamond smuggler.

### CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS

Once again as a favor to Capt Lawrence Tarzan journeys far from his home. This time to El Amon in the Libyan Desert, where Dr. Ericson, his daughter Ilisa and Arnold Brown are excavating an Egyptian tomb. They find a note warning them to leave or suffer the curse of the Pharaohs and that evening Mouli a bearer who is on guard duty is murdered and a mark of twin snakes entwined is found on his forehead. Suspicion falls on Arnold Brown because Tarzan notes he is wearing a ring with the same snake emblem, but he too is murdered and the mystery thickens

### TARZAN'S MISTAKE

And also the scriptwriter's mistake that has Tarzan believing a shaman's prophesy that a railroad that is being built is going to bring destruction to the jungle. Tarzan leads a native attack on the engineers, but is later shown the error of his ways by Captain Lawrence and with the Punyas helps to finish the construction of the railroad.

### CONTRABAND

### CONGO MAGIC

### FIRST PRIZE, DEATH

### ALL PRESUMED DEAD

### GHOST OF THE KARNIKI

### MESSAGE TO FORT CHAVIR

### TROUBLE COMES IN PAIRS



The radio version has Tarzan, D'Arnot, the Gregory's and their two white hunter/guides Wolf and Larson (Rob Thompson must have been thinking about Jack London's THE SEA WOLF when he wrote this) travel by boat to Bonga. Also on board is Magra who makes friends with Helen to gain her confidence. Atan Thome and Lal Taask follow by a later riverboat. After they reach Bonga Tarzan and his party trek through the jungle in search of Tuen-Baka. Magra finally realizes Tarzan is not Brian Gregory when he saves her from a lion. Atan Thome and Lal Taask follow them through the jungle and stay close to the Tarzan party in order to communicate with Wolf who is in their employ.

In the book Atan Thome, Lal Taask and their prisoner Helen are in advance of the Tarzan party. Helen escapes from Thome, but is captured by cannibals. Tarzan rescues her and takes her back to her father. Magra is kidnapped by great apes, Tarzan goes to her rescue and becomes king of the tribe and brings the apes back to his camp.

It is Helen, in the radio serial that is kidnapped by the apes, but with the same result. Later the bearers desert the Tarzan party and join Atan Thome who leads an attack on Tarzan's party. In the fight Gregory is killed and Tarzan kills Lal Taask, but Tarzan and his friends are overwhelmed and they strike a truce with Atan Thome to search for Tuen-Baka and the lost city of Asher together. Later Helen disappears and Tarzan goes in search of her. The Swedish hunter Larson falls into a hole in the ground which turns out to be a "causeway" to Tuen-Baka. They find a message scratched on the wall from Helen and when Tarzan returns they continue in the direction of Tuen-Baka. Along the way Tarzan battles a dinosaur and they are later captured by 'Hesi-Herians' and Tarzan saves their leader from a flying snake. The Hesi-Herians take them up the side of Tuen-Baka, the extinct volcano in a curious vehicle called a "senhoot", which travels on tracks up the side on the volcano. Made of metal it is attracted by the magnetic pull of a huge lodestone on the crater's rim. Once at the top, a shield is put between the lodestone and the senhoot and the vehicle coasts down the other side, which must have been some ride!

Inside the volcano is another major difference in the two versions. In the novel ERB inhabited the crater with his usual warring cities, but gave us the unique conception of the underwater temples, ptomes etc. There is none of this in the radio version, just one city, but enough warring factions within to keep things interesting. Wolf is killed by the guardian apes of the Father of Diamonds, Larson is killed defending Helen and at the climax. of the serial Magra dies in Tarzan's arms from a bullet that was meant for Tarzan, fired by Thome. Thome is returned to the city of Asher to gaze forever on the Father of Diamonds, a hypnotic gem which, when looked upon renders the looker into a state of suspended animation.

Of added interest, according to note 39, on page 764 of Porges' biography of ERB, Burroughs wrote the continuity of the comic strip version of TARZAN & THE FORBIDDEN CITY before he wrote the book, although by only a short margin of time. Sept. 2 to Sept 30, 1937 for the strip and Oct. 10 to Nov 18, 1937 for the book. The two are very similar, but for some unaccountable reason D'Arnot was dropped from the strip and replaced with Lavac. It seems very likely that the editors at United Features Syndicate were responsible for this change, it is hard to imagine ERB doing it, if he had been requested to drop a character it would have been Lavac and not D'Arnot. In the opening sequence (in the book) the only reason Tarzan travels to Loango is because D'Arnot is there, he would hardly have gone there at the request of Lavac, who he did not know. Yet the strip gives the impression that Lavac is his lifelong friend. ERB dropped the hunter Larson when he wrote the book, but the strip drops Wolff as well, again this sounds like an editorial decision - probably too many characters for Maxon to draw. But despite the absence of two characters, the strip is almost identical to the book, much of the text is the same, although abbreviated and an occasional sentence structure altered.

But to return to radio. The next 39 episode serial was released in 1936 and titled TARZAN & THE FIRES OF TOHR, again scripted by Rob Thompson. From TARZAN'S QUEST he borrowed the theme of immortality and the Kuvuru became the Tohrians, but the rest of it owes more to H. Rider Haggard than Edgar Rice Burroughs. Ahtea the immortal queen of Tohr, is a thinly disguised Ayesha. Tarzan becomes her Kallikrates and she grows old and perishes after bathing in the Fires of Tohr once too often. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any existing copies of the radio serial and our only knowledge of it (unless you are only enough to remember it) comes from the comic strip version.

TARZAN & THE FIRES OF TOHR was the last of the titled comic strips and ran from Feb. 20 to Aug. 26, 1939, but whether ERB or Rob Thompson wrote the continuity for it we will probably never know. Rob Thompson did however write the continuity for a later version that appeared in the strip in 1948. Thompson had been commissioned by UFS to write the daily strip at ERB's request, starting in 1947 when Burne Hogarth returned to the Sunday strip and was also given the task of over-seeing the daily strip. Thompson's first strip was an adaptation of TARZAN AT THE EARTH'S CORE (which according to Dan Adkins had also been a planned radio serial), which also featured a lengthy "flashback" telling the story of David Innes from ATEC and PELLUCIDAR. He followed TATEC with an adaptation of his own radio play TARZAN & THE DIAMOND OF ASHER but changed the names of some of the characters, which he also did with FIRES OF TOHR.

Unfortunately, what could have been an entertaining and faithful series of audio adventures of Tarzan came to an end with FIRES OF TOHR. ERB, Inc. packed up their recording studios and the actors went on to other things. The multi-talented husband and wife team of Jeanette Nolan and John McIntire (the announcer of the series), were ever present on radio and with the advent of TV easily moved over into that medium, as did Gale Gordon who of course became famous as the long suffering Mr. Mooney on THE LUCY SHOW and as John Wilson on DENNIS THE MENACE. Cy Kendall became a well known character actor in the movies, heavy set, he made an excellent cigar chewing heavy until his death in 1953. He appeared as the circus owner in TARZAN'S NEW YORK ADVENTURE.

Carlton Kadell went on to become radio's RED RYDER and had parts in several soap operas, a courtroom drama JONATHAN KEGG and in 1950/51 he was featured in ARMSTRONG OF THE SBI (Jack Armstrong the All-American Boy as an adult). So he was still active in radio when Walter White's Commodore Productions were searching for a new Tarzan in 1950 for their proposed series of new radio adventures of the apeman. It is a pity that White couldn't have used Kadell to continue his role of Tarzan, but instead he picked another actor whose major work had been small parts in soap operas, and whose best work lay many years in the future.

-1932-

TARZAN OF THE APES, the 1930's radio serial  
Joan Burroughs as Jane, her husband as Tarzan  
'titles' of the chapters

1. Tarzan's first birthday
2. Battle with the ape
3. Tarzan in young manhood
4. Tarzan attacked by Tabor
5. Tarzan sees a ship
6. Tarzan rescues the captain
7. Tarzan rescues the captain again
8. Did the bottle really go over-board?
9. The captain is in quicksand
10. A fight aboard ship
11. Tarzan's shack
12. Mutinous Captain killed
13. Tarzan delivers the sailor
14. Tarzan rescues Jane's father
15. Clayton tries to rescue the professor
16. Tarzan saves Clayton
17. Tarzan saves Jane
18. Tarzan reads Jane's letter
19. Morning arrives
20. Tarzan presides over apes
21. Tarzan rescues Jane from the apes
22. The professor wants to search
23. Rescue (Tropics Land)
24. Tarzan's hut afire?
25. Clayton hunts Tarzan
26. Tarzan fires at Clayton
27. The ship leaves
28. Search party is attacked
29. Philander is captured
30. Search party finds a clue
31. The jungle awakes
32. Jane is captured by cannibals
33. Search party is trapped
34. Tarzan learns more English
35. Jane and Tarzan go to the hut
36. Search party makes their move
37. Cannibals chose the professor
38. Second escape try
39. Jane is attacked.
40. The poison drink
41. Ape battles snake
42. Return of the ship
43. Tarzan saves Jane
44. Tarzan recaptured
45. Reunited
46. Escape
47. Rain comes
48. Jane receives Graystoke Locket
49. Tarzan and the crocodiles
50. Rescuers seek safety in cave
51. Attempted rescue
52. Sounds in the cave
53. The Witch doctor escapes
54. Witch doctor noises
55. Tarzan fires dynamite
56. The cannibals attack
57. The attack
58. The Lion attacks
59. The professor collapses
60. The party gets mad at Clayton
61. Mutineers return
62. Jane is captured
63. Tarzan and Jane talk
64. Jane is captured again
65. Tarzan to the rescue
66. Tarzan to the ship
67. Ship Rescue
68. Ship wreck
69. Captain Tracy's arm
70. others on the reef
71. Tarzan with the apes
72. Jane at the Dum Dum
73. Elephant Stampede
74. Lt. makes his escape
75. Tarzan meets mutineers
76. The Escape
77. Weeks later